

# Gainesville Daily Sun

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GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1906

TEN CENTS A WEEK

## BLAME FOR WRECK PLACED ON OPERATOR

Country Being Scoured For  
Mattoax.

### CONTENTIONS UPHELD BY BOOK

Claim that Negligence of Dispatcher  
in Allowing Two Trains in One  
Block at the Same Time Was the  
Whole Cause of Collision.

Lynchburg, Va., Dec. 4.—The cause of the awful wreck near Lawyers depot, 10 miles south of this city, in which President Samuel Spencer and his party of prominent New York and Baltimore men lost their lives, is laid absolutely at the door of C. D. Mattoax, the operator, who was in charge of the block telegraph station at Rangoon.

Mattoax, who disappeared after being relieved less than an hour after the wreck, has not been found, despite the fact that railway detectives have scoured the country around the wreck and his home at Sandy Level, in Pittsylvania county, some 40 miles from the scene of the accident on a small branch line of the Southern.

An official of the Southern railway stated that the company was desirous of apprehending Mattoax in order to secure a statement from him that might throw some light on the causes that led him to allow two trains in the same block at the same time. This official was not permitted to state today whether or not the company would take steps to prosecute the missing operator and he did not then know if he could be prosecuted under the laws of the state of Virginia.

An examination of the telegraph sheets kept at the Rangoon and Lawyers block offices by the representative of the Associated Press discloses the fact that Mattoax allowed train No. 33, the Jacksonville express, upon the block, the train passing his station, getting a clear track from him at 6:06 o'clock. The operator at Lawyers, the next station, ahead, claimed that Mattoax did not ask him for a "clear track" for No. 33, and he, therefore, did not know this train had passed Rangoon. The block sheet at Lawyers bears out this claim. The sheets at both offices show that the operator at Rangoon asked Lawyers for a clear track for No. 37, the Washington and southwestern vestibuled limited, and the Lawyers operator not knowing No. 33 was in the lock, gave No. 37 the right of way at 6:14 o'clock, and No. 37 passed Rangoon at that time.

Stammered down, if Mattoax, at Rangoon, had reported train No. 33 on the block at Lawyers, then there would have been no accident, because the operator at Lawyers would have held No. 37 at Rangoon until the Jacksonville train had cleared the block at Lawyers, no matter how long the delay might have been between the two offices.

Superintendent W. S. Andrews, of the Danville division, explained that the report that the engine of the forward train had gone some distance ahead of its train when it became detached was erroneous and the fact is that the engine did not leave the train more than twenty feet, the air brakes applying immediately upon the engine as well as the train. The trouble was the breaking of a knuckle of the drawhead on the front end of the forward car. The trainmen were repairing this when the collision occurred.

Assistant General Superintendent E. H. Coapman states there is not the slightest doubt but the flagman made every possible effort to protect the rear of the train, but he could not get around a sharp curve in time to prevent the collision. "As soon as Engineer Kinney saw the signal he applied the emergency brakes and stayed at his post to the last."

Superintendent Andrews of the Danville division, left late Friday afternoon, having been called to Washington, D. C. It was Mr. Andrews' understanding that the entire official family of the Southern railway company had been summoned to the city of Washington to be present at

the funeral of President Spencer. Mr. Andrews, however, was not informed as to the funeral arrangements.

Washington, Dec. 1.—The funeral of President Samuel Spencer will take place at St. John's church in this city, at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Rev. Roland C. Smith officiating. The body will be interred in this city. The burial services will be private.

For five minutes during the funeral hour, beginning promptly at 2 o'clock p. m., every train and all machinery of the entire Southern system will be at a standstill as a mark of respect to the late president.

The active pallbearers will consist of ten of the oldest negro porters in the service of the Southern railroad. This list will not be made public until later. The honorary pallbearers will include the vice presidents and officials of the road, J. Pierpont Morgan and other prominent financiers of New York.

The list given out by the officials of the Southern railway follows:

A. B. Andrews, first vice president, Raleigh, N. C.; W. W. Finley, second vice president, Washington; J. M. Culp, third vice president, Washington; C. H. Ackert, fourth vice president, Washington; T. D. Powell, fifth vice president, of St. Louis, Mo.; Fairfax Harrison, assistant to the president, Washington; F. L. Stetson, general counsel, New York; Alfred P. Thom, general counsel, Louisville, Ky.; R. D. Langford, secretary, New York; H. J. Ansley, treasurer, Washington; W. S. Stonessend, president's office, New York; Colonel L. R. Russell, vice president, Mobile and Ohio railroad, Mobile; W. J. Murphy, vice president, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railway, Cincinnati; Major J. F. Hanson, president Central Railway of Georgia, Macon, Ga.; Colonel A. R. Lawton, first vice president of Central of Georgia railway, Savannah, Ga.; J. Pierpont Morgan, George S. Bowdoin, General Baker, president New York and Long Beach railroad, New York.

President Spencer earned his first laurels in railroading on the section of road where he lost his life. That portion of the Southern system was formerly known as the Virginia Midland, of which Mr. Spencer was superintendent in 1877.

### Eleven Pulajanes Killed.

Manila, Dec. 3.—A force of constabulary under command of Major Murphy surprised the camp of Pablo, chief of the Pulajanes on the island of Samar at daylight, Nov. 30, 11 of the Pulajanes were killed; the chief's son and nine of the band were wounded. Chief Pablo himself escaped but his wife and daughter were captured. Clothing, arms and papers found were destroyed together with the camp. The capture of chief Pablo is considered the question of only a few days. There is now only the chief at large and plans have been arranged to capture or kill him. Governor Curdy of Samar wires that the breaking up of Chief Pablo's band signifies the death knell of Pulajanism in the island.

### Mabel Kilifer, Actress, Weds.

New York, Dec. 3.—Frederick Thompson, of Thompson, and Dundy, and Miss Mabel Kilifer, the actress, were married Friday night at the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this city. The couple became engaged only two weeks ago. Miss Kilifer, who is 19 years old, is now playing in "Pipapasses" at the Majestic theater. She comes of a stage family, and has been known as a child actress for some years. Before the "Pipapasses" engagement she was with "Mrs. Wiggs, of the Cabbage Patch," and in the "Little Princess." Frederick Thompson is about 32 years old. He was the originator of many of the novel ideas of Luna Park and of similar wonders at the Buffalo exposition.

### Earthquakes at Valparaiso.

New York, Dec. 3.—A Herald dispatch from Valparaiso, Chile, says: Earthquakes are again being felt here but there is little alarm.

### Naval Constructor Dead.

London, Dec. 3.—Sir Edward J. Reed, formerly chief constructor of the British navy, is dead. He was born in 1829.

## MASKED MOB FIRED FACTORIES

Of The Imperial Tobacco Com-  
pany In Kentucky

### THEN THEY REFUSED TO ALLOW

The Firemen to Fight the Flames, and  
Thus Causing a Financial Loss Esti-  
mated at About \$150,000.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 3.—A special from Princeton, Ky., says:

The tobacco stemmery of James Steger and John G. Orr, the latter controlled by the Imperial Tobacco company of New York, were totally destroyed at an early hour Saturday by a fire which was kindled against them by a mob of masked men. Several cottages in the vicinity were badly damaged, but nobody was hurt. The loss is estimated at about \$150,000.

The mob, which numbered about 300 men, entered Princeton between 1 and 2 o'clock, seized the night town marshal and disarmed him. They then went to the factories and quickly applied the torch. The masked men stood on guard, permitting nobody to come near until the buildings were completely enveloped in flames and help was useless. A squad of the mob took charge of the telephone office and no word of the affair was permitted to go out.

When the mob saw that the fire was beyond control, they left the town and went in the direction of Hopkinsville, discharging revolvers and rifles as they departed. The fire department then came out, but could do nothing more to prevent the fire from destroying buildings in the vicinity.

The Steger stemmery was located on the south side of town on the Illinois Central railroad, and the Orr building in the northern part of the town.

The Steger factory is controlled by the American Snuff company and Mr. Steger is principal owner of the concern, as Mr. Orr is the representative of the Imperial company. There was about 150,000 pounds of tobacco in each warehouse and all of it was burned. The mob in addition to disarming the night watchman, took charge of the police station and the waterworks. Even had the fire company responded, they would have been unable to obtain a supply of water for fire fighting purposes.

The work of the mob is believed to be only a furtherance of the agitation by the tobacco raiser against the tobacco trust. The organizations of the farmers is known as the Dark Tobacco Growers' Protective association, but it is not known that any member of that organization was in last night's mob.

### Will Johnson to Hang.

Atlanta, Dec. 3.—Will Johnson, a negro, was Saturday morning found guilty by the jury in the Fulton county superior court, criminal division, and Judge Roan sentenced him to be hanged, Jan. 1, 1907. Johnson was convicted of criminal assault on Mrs. Georgia Hembree last August, near her home, in Battle Hill. As many as twenty negroes were brought before Mrs. Hembree for identification, but she declared that she had no doubt that Johnson was the right man. Johnson is also suspected of other assaults. It is understood that January the first was selected as the date for the negro to pay the penalty of his crime on account of the fact that it was not wished to have a hanging just at Christmas time.

### Distinguished Veteran Destitute

Tampa, Fla., Dec. 3.—Captain J. C. Brain, confederate veteran suffering in this city from a stroke of paralysis, is destitute. Captain Brain commanded the Chesapeake, the Roanoke and the St. Mary of the confederate navy during the civil war. He blew up the St. Mary off the island of Jamaica on June 17, in 1863, when he was informed by Admiral Sir William Seymour that Lee had surrendered. This distinguished veteran needs assistance from his former comrades.

### GOOD REPORTS BY MINISTERS.

The South Georgia Conference Is In  
Fine Shape.

Valdosta, Ga., Dec. 3.—Fire Saturday of reports and examinations of young preachers continued in the south Georgia conference Friday.

On the call of question 220, "Are all the preachers blameless in their lives and official conduct?" the ministers of the Savannah district were called and submitted their reports and their characters were passed. The ministers of the north and south Macon districts and the Columbus district were called and their characters were also passed.

The reports showed that this has been the best year in the history of the conference. The reports of Dr. Ainsworth and the Rev. J. G. Christian were warmly complimented by Bishop Ward and the report of Rev. O. F. Cook, pastor of St. Luke's church, was of especial interest as the indebtedness of the church has been paid during his pastorate and the church raised over \$14,000 from all sources during the year. The board of missions also submitted its report today and Rev. A. M. Williams, D. D., of this city, was re-elected president.

### Fain Acquitted of Riot Charge.

Atlanta, Dec. 3.—S. E. Fain, charged with intent to murder a negro named Jasper Alford, on the night of September 23, during the race riot, was acquitted in Judge Roan's court. Judge Ben Hill was counsel for the defense and Solicitor General Charles P. Hill represented the state. When the negro Alford went on the stand he stated that he had no knowledge as to who wounded him, and witnesses for the defense swore that the defendant was talking to them in a group near the Marion hotel when the shooting occurred. The testimony of A. L. Stipes, a druggist, was to the effect that he saw Fain shove the negro and that Fain shot at the negro three times when he placed his hand in his hip pocket. The jury rendered a verdict in a comparatively short time and Fain was set free.

### Fumes of Auto Caused Death.

Philadelphia, Dec. 3.—Gustav Sieding, aged 58 years, well known as a promoter of amusement enterprises was found dead in his automobile in a garage in the northern section of the city. He had been asphyxiated by gasoline fumes while leaning over the tank of the machine making repairs. Sieding had been dead for several hours when his body was found. The unfortunate man's head was lying across the opening from which the deadly fumes were issuing, and the physicians say, left no doubt as to the cause of death.

### Mark Twain 71 Years Old.

New York, Dec. 3.—Mark Twain was 71 years old Friday. He celebrated his birthday by playing pool almost the entire afternoon with his secretary and one or two friends. Early in the day telegrams, cablegrams, messages and flowers began to arrive at his home. Mr. Clement was enjoying a nap when a reporter came. His secretary said: "You can say that Mr. Twain is in the best of health since his attack of bronchitis. He thanks his friends far and near for their kind messages and says he objects to live many more years to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of this world."

### Makes Plan for Cathedral.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 3.—G. F. Bolley, of London and Henry Vaughn, of Boston, both architects, have arrived in Washington at the invitation of Bishop Satterlee to arrange the plans for the new cathedral which is to be erected in this city. The edifice will cost more than two million dollars.

### Four Killed in a Wreck.

Vergennes, Vt., Dec. 3.—Four persons are known to have been killed and it is feared that others lost their lives while several were seriously injured, in a wreck on the Rutland railroad near here. A gravel train plowed into the rear end of a passenger train. Two passenger cars were wrecked and caught on fire. None of the dead have been positively identified.

## WOUNDS WIFE THEN KILLS SELF

Dead Body Found On Bed With  
Wife Nearby.

### HATCHET WAS WEAPON USED

Little Sons of Couple Notified Their  
Neighbors, Who Entered House to  
View the Awful Tragedy—Cooper  
Was Despondent from Drink.

Atlanta, Dec. 3.—Locked securely in the center room of the family home—a small frame tenement house which was veiled in utter darkness—the little sons of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Cooper, early Friday night discovered the dead form of their father, lying across the bed with a bullet hole in the back of his head, and their mother, crouching among the pillows unconscious from frightful wounds apparently made with a hatchet and literally drenched in her own blood.

Strange circumstances surround the ghastly affair. Some are of the opinion that Cooper, who was a carpenter while in a drunken spree, deliberately attacked his wife because she had earlier in the day expressed a desire to leave him for the purpose of going to the bedside of her sick mother, and then completed the awful deed by taking his own life.

Mrs. Cooper was removed to the Grady hospital. She was said to be in a precarious condition Saturday morning, her skull being fractured at the base of the brain, and she had only a slight chance of recovery.

The remains of the dead man were removed to the undertaking establishment of Harry G. Poole & Co., where an inquest will be held later.

### Held for Attempted Assault.

Columbus, Ga., Dec. 3.—In Justice Lennard's court Harry Mendall was bound over to the superior court in the sum of \$150, on a charge of attempting to criminally assault Miss Bertha Curry, a young girl whom he was escorting home from the Swift mill Thursday night. The warrant was not issued for the young man until Friday morning because of the fact that the young girl did not report the matter to her parents until that time, as she feared that her relatives might proceed to violent measures with her would-be assailant. According to the statement made by the girl, only her heroic struggles saved her from the persistent efforts of Mendall.

### Price of Tobacco Advanced.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 3.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Dark Tobacco Growers' association at Guthrie, Ky., the price of all tobaccos controlled by the association was advanced from one to three dollars per hundred pounds. It is understood that a proposition to sell between seven and ten million pounds of tobacco in loose form was rejected on the ground that the sell would have to be made at the barns. The committee met in secret session.

### Found Dead in a Buggy.

Del Rio, Tex., Dec. 3.—C. B. Cauthern, one of the most prominent sheep men in this section was found dead in his buggy three miles from Del Rio, with a bullet in his heart. This is the second murder within two days and the entire city is greatly excited. Several mobs are working independently of the Rangers, and bloodhounds are being used and a lynching will probably occur if the assassin is captured.

### Civil War Vets Indorse Course.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Scores of telegrams and letters have been received by President Roosevelt commending his course in discharging without honor, the members of the three companies of the Twenty-fifth infantry, some of whom were engaged in the trouble at Brownsville, Tex. They came mostly from the north, and include many old war veterans who have served with many troops. A resolution may be introduced in congress calling for all the information in the war department regarding the case.